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university of
dayton



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UD AWARDS FIRST GRADUATE DEGREES IN NEW PROGRAM

DAYTON, Ohio, April 18, 1978 --- The University of Dayton will graduate its first three students in a new Master of Clinical Laboratory Technology program on April 30. The program was instituted at UD last fall under the direction of Dr. Stephen Sonstein, and it is one of the few programs of its kind in the country.

"The new master's level degree program was developed to serve the present and continuing need for persons with advanced training in clinical areas to function either in an educational, supervisory, or administrative position in the field of laboratory medicine," said Sonstein.

There are presently 15 students enrolled in the program, and anyone who is a certified medical technologist is eligible to apply. The program is designed to provide a continuing educational experience for both experienced professional laboratory personnel in the Dayton community as well as for recent graduates in medical technology.

The impetus to start a master's program in clinical laboratory technology came from the Dayton community itself, according to Sonstein, particularly the pathologists, medical directors, and educational coordinators of the four local hospitals who are in a position to employ graduates of the program.

The M.S. program involves an interdisciplinary approach since it requires courses from the University's Schools of Business and Education and the College of Arts and Sciences.

"It is a non-research oriented, non-thesis program, and may be individually constructed to allow graduates to develop the specific skills they need in order to meet their own goals," said Sonstein. In addition to providing students with the management or teaching skills necessary to function as a laboratory supervisor or educational coordinator, "the program provides recent grads with additional information in the field of science and updates information for those who have been out a while," he added.

The core of this program is a practicum experience which is designed to take the theoretical input of the classroom and put it into practical use. Shirley Pohl, administrative technologist at Good Samaritan Hospital, is teaching the practicum in clinical laboratory administration, and Margaret Carroll, educational coordinator of the School of Medical Technology at Miami Valley Hospital is teaching a practicum in clinical laboratory education.

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According to Sonstein, the job outlook for graduates in the master of clinical laboratory is good -- "trade journals are always advertising for these people." One of UD's first three graduates, Carolyn Forster of Trotwood, has been offered a position as the education coordinator of the School of Medical Technology at Good Samaritan Hospital in Dayton.

The other graduates are Madeleine Rico and Susan Williford. Both are of Dayton and presently employed by St. Elizabeth Medical Center as medical technologists in the blood bank.

The need for a continuing educational experience for laboratory personnel, according to Sonstein, will become mandatory if the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Act, now being acted upon in Congress, is passed. The act will provide for further educational requirements for certification and recertification of medical technologists in the near future.